REMARKS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended.

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Claims 1 has been amended to delete the clause including the language "the angular relationship." Therefore, the rejection based upon this language is believed to be overcome.

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Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,908,423 to Kashuba et al. ("Kashuba"). Independent claim 1 has been amended to state that the first and second components can be operably connected in a first and a second position. The first position is one in which the rotational centerline of the first component and the rotational centerline of the second component are in the first relationship and the second position is one in which the rotational centerline of the first component and the rotational centerline of the second component are in the second relationship. The claim has further been amended to state that the locking arrangement can fixedly lock the first component to the second component in the second position.

There is no disclosure in Kashuba of such a locking mechanism. In fact, in Kashuba, the reamer is meant to be flexible and to continue to flex through the reaming process (see col. 2, ln. 53 – col. 3, ln. 9). Kashuba discloses a template that allows the reamer to be controlled within certain boundaries (see FIG. 13). However, the template does not fixedly lock the first component to the second component in the second position. The reamer is still free to move within the template. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Kashuba.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims have been overcome and that all remaining claims, namely claims 1-3 and 5-8 are currently in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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